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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 26 August 1953

SUBJECT Recruiting Campaign for the KVP Discontinued

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[REDACTED] the Ministry of the Interior that, effective immediately, the recruiting campaign for the Kasernierte Volkspolizei (KVP) was discontinued and that mass discharges of soldiers who completed their term would soon be made. At a press conference which was held at the Ministry of the Interior in the morning on 11 June 1953, the spokesman of the Ministry told Max Kahane, ADN editor-in-chief, that the embryonic general staff which had been in existence at the Ministry of the Interior would also cease to exist. He said that the discharges were made on Soviet orders in an effort to be able to furnish evidence at forthcoming conferences that East Germany observed the Potsdam agreement with regard to demilitarization.

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[REDACTED] Comment. Although source was usually reliable, the information must be viewed with reserve. A slowing down or even a reversal of the previous Volkspolizei would naturally be an effective support to the new course of Semenov. It may be noted, however, that the date of observation is prior to the Berlin riots. The apparent unreliability of the KVP during the Berlin uprising, on the other hand, may make a reduction of this satellite force appear not inappropriate to the Soviets. Other information tended to indicate a temporary period of non-enlistment rather, than discharges from the KVP.

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